## EXHIBIT A

USSN 10/535,472 Attorney Docket: 22460-0003US1



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August 8, 2008

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Dear Sir,

Referring to your inquiry of aug. 07 I confirm that Sigma-Aldrich Biochemie GmbH and all of its precursor companies, in particular Proligo Biochemie GmbH, have never offered, sold or marketed any  $\alpha$ -L-LNA compositions, i.e. phosphoramidites or nucleoside loaded polymeric supports comprising  $\alpha$ -L-LNA nucleosides of any kind, to any client, neither in the public or in a confidential manner. The same is true for Proligo LLC, the parent company of Proligo Biochemie GmbH during 1998 to 2005.

In contrast, Sigma-Aldrich Biochemie GmbH, its precursor company Proligo Biochemie GmbH, and its former parent company Proligo LLC have offered, sold or marketed  $\beta$ -D-LNA compositions, i.e. compositions based on  $\beta$ -D-LNA nucleosides, to the public until end 2007.

Best regards

Andreas Wolter Managing Director

Sigma-Aldrich Biochemie GmbH.

Geschäftsführer Dr. Gerd Backes - Dr. Hans-Joponen Merrem - Peter Schule - Dr. Andreas Wotter - HRB 17081 Hansburg US-Dollar/EURO: Deutsche Bank AG Kto.-Nr.: 863;1550 BLZ 200 700 00 BIC-SYAFT, DEUT DE HH IBAN: DE 7920080000511:105500